

when difficulties or dangers of any kind present themselves, and which is always bound to be unprepared when a crisis or emergency arises. It is against this tendency of the times I think it behoves us all to guard ourselves.

Under such conditions as I have spoken of it is natural, that in Canada as elsewhere, one of the problems to which we have to give earnest consideration is that of unemployment. I am thankful to say that in the constituency which I represent that condition has not, as yet, become a very serious menace—though it is, of course, not entirely absent. I venture to say, Sir, owing to the very wise and very energetic course pursued by the Government in the demobilization of our troops and in the re-establishment of our men in civil life the fact, is very largely to be attributed that the condition referred to is not more wide spread and more acute in Canada than is the case to-day. Surely, never was there a young country which staggered under a greater burden of responsibility in regard to measures necessary to re-establish our returned men in some way, and to provide pensions for themselves and the dependents of those who so gloriously and heroically upheld the honour of the nation and of the empire during the terrible period of the war. And surely, Sir, no Government on earth ever approached that problem with a more courageous, determined and sympathetic spirit. As we all know—if we are at all frank with ourselves—marvels have already been accomplished in regard to the re-establishing of our returned men. Of course there have been mistakes, there have been blunders and shortcomings in matters of detail; but I maintain that what has been accomplished constitutes a glorious achievement for Canada. While much still remains to be done I misjudge the temper of this House, and the temper of the citizens of Canada, if we begrudge anything further which can reasonably be done to relieve and assist these men of whom the nation has cause to feel so proud and whose devotion to duty and whose sacrifices have laid a debt upon the country which can never even partially be liquidated by material recompense.

In this connection too, I am glad to note in the Speech from the Throne that consideration is being given to the questions of old age pensions and unemployment insurance. I feel quite certain that the House will approach the consideration of these

subjects with very sympathetic feelings knowing, as we all do, that a certain proportion of our population—very often through no fault of their own—labour under disabilities and burdens, and if anything can be done to relieve them it is our duty, I think, to make an effort to do so.

It will be acknowledged, I think, that the ability of this country to meet the obligations thrust upon us by the war, and, consequently, our progress and prosperity, are inseparably wrapped up with the tariff issue. This is a most important matter, and in a constituency such as that which I have the honour to represent, it is indeed a very vital matter. Fruit growing in the Okanagan and elsewhere throughout Yale has now reached a stage where it is become a very important industry. I can recall the days, Sir, probably about twenty years ago, when the first full car of fruit was shipped out of the Okanagan, and it was an occasion for celebration. This year I hope that we will be able to send forth an output of fruit exceeding 5,000 cars. The course towards this phenomenal growth and measure of success has been by no means an easy one. The road we have traversed was full of obstacles and difficulties, which at one time seemed almost insurmountable; and I am firmly convinced that had it not been for the well-advised action of the Borden administration in raising the duty on apples from 13 to 30 cents a box, the industry in the Okanagan to-day would have been almost extinct. I have no desire to enter largely at this time upon a subject which I know is fraught with so many contentious issues, but I know full well that my constituents would consider me a traitor to their interests did I not upon all occasions endeavour to combat with whatever energy in me lies any attempt to reduce or eliminate the duty on fruit, without which protection our industry could not live.

There were times during the lean years in the fruit growing industry when my office used to be invaded time and again by men who came to me for advice and who were in absolute despair. They thought that I was responsible for their coming to that country and investing their all in fruit lands, and perhaps in some instances they were right. Up to 1914 the industry was in such a languishing condition that nothing but ruin seemed to stare these men in the face. South of British Columbia lie the two great fruit-producing States of Washington and Oregon, and extending east of those States